

German Presbyterian Bethlehem Church
(Little Bethlehem Church)
311 Ramsey Street
St. Paul
Ramsey County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-57

HABS
MINN,
62-SAIPA,
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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

STATE MINNESOTA	COUNTY RAMSEY	TOWN OR VICINITY ST. PAUL
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) German Presbyterian Bethlehem Church		HABS NO. MN-57
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Little Bethlehem Church		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 311 Ramsey Street		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1890 (Gebhart, Arch. of Minnesota)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) Cass Gilbert and James Knox Taylor	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) German-speaking immigrants established congregation in 1887, in 1890 land purchased from Gov. Ramsey for \$3,000, Ramsey donated one-third price. The church, built of rough yellow quarry stone, cost \$8,000.00. Gilbert designed the church to recall the picturesque idiom of the vernacular architecture of Germany and Switzerland.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Picturesque		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Rough yellow quarry stone		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) (See MN-57-3)		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Winding rough hewn stone entrance stairway Shingled spire Shingled and hooded auditorium elevation		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) (See MN-57-3)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Since the congregation disbanded in 1916, the building has been the headquarters of theatre groups, architectural groups and lately a funeral home.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Unknown		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Gebhard, David and Tom Martinson, <u>Architecture of Minnesota</u> . Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1977, p. 100. Koepper, H.F. <u>Historic St. Paul Buildings</u> . St. Paul: St. Paul Planning Board, 1964, p. 99.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION ELENI SILVERMAN, HABS Architectural Historian		DATE 6-21-83